

## THE INTELLIGENCER.

PUBLISHED DAILY AND WEEKLY.  
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FRENCH, CAMPBELL &amp; HART,

Wheeling, W. Va.

(Entered as 2d class matter at Wheeling, W. Va., Jan. 31, 1887.)

Attention Republicans.

Call for a State Convention of Republican Clubs to Form a State League.

MARTINSBURG, W. Va., Jan. 7, 1888.

To the Republicans of West Virginia:

By authority vested in me as Chairman of the National Republican League for West Virginia, I hereby call a Convention of Clubs to be held at the Opera House, Wheeling, on

FEBRUARY 10 and 12, 1888.

The purpose of this meeting is for the organization of a State League to act in harmony with the National League. Each Club is entitled to five delegates, and to cast one vote in the Convention.

The members of the Congressional and State Committees and the Chairman and Secretary of each County Committee are expected to attend.

All orders of newspapers are expected to be a continuation of the Democratic administration are cordially invited.

Reduced fares on railroads will be given to those attending the Convention.

Organize Clubs at once throughout the State, and appoint delegates.

GEORGE M. BOWERS,

Vice President National League for West Va.

CALL FOR MEETING

Of the Second Congressional District Republican Committee.

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., Jan. 18, 1888.

By the authority vested in me as Chairman of the Second Congressional District Republican Committee, I hereby call a meeting of the Committee to be held at the Opera House, on

FEBRUARY 10, 1888.

It is of the utmost importance that every member of the Committee be present.

U. S. GRANT PETER,

Chairman Second Dist. Rep. Com.

(Republican party in Second District will please insert this notice once or twice.)

The Intelligence.

WHEELING, W. VA., JANUARY 31, 1888.

This favored Region.

One need not be Phrygian in spirit, nor thank God that he is better than other people, to be fully appreciative of the fact that his lot is cast here in the Ohio Valley where fuel is abundant and cheap and provisions plenty and reasonable in price, when he reads these days of the storm-swept sections of the country, where blizzards rage, the snow piles high, the thermometer goes away below zero, and fuel goes up as the temperature goes down.

We have only a healthful and necessary touch of winter here, just enough to quicken the circulation of the blood and give us stamina and energy, and not enough to deplete the vitality of the system.

This is a highly favored region indeed, and if we never appreciated the fact properly before we will be apt to do so this winter. Here we have all the elements for happy, peaceful and prosperous life—a rich agricultural region, a splendid manufacturing region, protection from the cyclones and blizzards, and no long season of enervating heat or killing cold. Even the Intelligent would admit that he could hardly improve on this region if he had the making of another world.

All in all, there is no part of the trumpeted and sensationalized West that compares with this region. If it could be relocated; transported; or to speak; somewhere in the "wild west"—it would be heralded to the world as a phenomenal edifice. As it is, many of those born and raised here, like the inmates of many an enviable home, imagine there must be better homes elsewhere, and waste their lives in a vain search for their original advantages.

Germany in the Schools.

After a long fight, beginning years ago, German has at last by a popular vote taken in St. Louis on Friday last been discontinued in the public schools of that city. This result is all the more remarkable from the fact that about one-half of the population of St. Louis is German born or of German extraction. The dispatch announcing the result says:

An investigation of the records showed that 18,000 of the 40,000 school children were taught German. Over one-half of the 18,000 were in the first grade, children from 6 to 8 years of age. The percentage decreased rapidly in the upper grades, and in the eighth grade, which is next to the high school, only 5 per cent of the pupils took German. In the high school only 2 per cent accepted the language. The evidence tended to show that as the judgment of the pupils developed interest in German subsided. The general result of the system was also open to criticism. It was found that the American child who took German in every grade and finally graduated had then only acquired a smattering of the language. These facts were brought prominently before the attention of the public, and a strong appeal was made for the expulsion of German. The English press united on one side and the German press on the other. The principal argument of the German press was that "Nearly one-half the population of St. Louis is of Teutonic origin. It pays a heavy tax and is entitled to some consideration; therefore it is but right that the language should be taught in the public schools." The answer was: "The school board is bankrupt, and it was reduced to bankruptcy by attempting to foster German. The common school system contemplated only the teaching of English. English book-studies; therefore German must go."

Casting all prejudice to one side, there can be no doubt that the people of St. Louis have done a wise thing. The remark in the dispatch that "the common school system contemplated only the teaching of English book-studies" tells the whole case in a nut shell. As this paper has always contended, the common school system was founded on this idea and has its only justification and strength in this idea. It was never intended to build up a fancy system of any sort, but to fit every child in the land for the ordinary duties of good citizenship by teaching the "bed-rock studies" of the English tongue, to the end of teaching him to understand and appreciate our institutions and his duties and rights thereunder.

The whole spirit and genius of our institutions is American and has its roots deep in the English language and no other, and it is therefore of the first importance that the limited days of the average school period should be utilized to thoroughly Americanize our population

and make it as homogeneous as possible.

The destiny of this nation and its successive generations of children are all identified with the growth and spread of the English language as the base of all our education, and we ought not to detract from the efficiency of the school system by hesitating on its distracting tendencies of any sort.

The study of foreign languages is altogether extraneous to the common school idea, and comes under the head of private extra for which the people as a mass should not be taxed. Those who wish to acquire foreign languages, living or dead, have abundant opportunity to study them at their own expense, and they have no more right to expect the general public thus to educate them than to put them through a regular college and professional course.

It is time that every city in the land should get back to the sound fundamental ideas of the common school system.

From the Editor's Note Book.

I happened to be in Washington when some long-headed persons were availing themselves of the cheap mid-winter excursion offer of the Baltimore &amp; Ohio Railroad—one of the best passenger schemes, by the way, ever devised by that company. It was a good thing for the company and a good thing for the people along its line. It was good for the country, because it brought business which otherwise it would not have had; good for the people, because at little cost it afforded an opportunity to visit the National Capital when everything is in full blast.

Washington, already the most beautiful of American cities, is by odds the most worth visiting. That American who has not seen Washington in its season, seen Congress at its work, gone through the Executive Departments, taken a peep at the President and got at least a general idea of the running of the vast machine, has no idea how vast a machine it is that centers at the heart of the National Government. To see Washington at such a time is a necessary part of the education of every American; to see the splendid city at any time is to fill the eye with an unending picture of a most beautiful and interesting city.

The destiny of Washington is to be the finest capital city in the world. This it is in many respects, and this it shall be in all respects. Why not? It is the Capital of the richest of the nations and of the Nation which accumulates wealth faster than any other.

A protective tariff dug out of a mud-hole this Queen of American cities and set her upon the solid ground. This thought came to me with force as I looked on the men who are working like mad men to underlie the protective structure.

I met Mr. Stephen B. Elkins, who had run down to Baltimore to attend a meeting of the stockholders and directors of the West Virginia Central &amp; Pittsburgh Railroad Company, of which he is Vice-President. Mr. Elkins is about the most enthusiastic West Virginian I have met. He believes in the future of our State and has bound up his own fate with it. He is one of the active spirits in West Virginia development, and feels a personal pride in every foot of railroad built by his company. Mr. Elkins has been invited to deliver an address before the literary societies of the University at commencement time and it is in his desire to fill his place on the bill if he can make his other engagements to suit. In reply to a question about the next Republican National Convention for the President, Mr. Elkins said, "The convention is wise enough for me. I shall do what I can to help to elect the nominee." At the same time the nomination of Mr. Blaine as the free-will candidate of the party would please Mr. Elkins. It is little better than anything else that could happen, and there are more like him.

I met with all sorts of Republicans, some of whom prefer Blaine and some others. I met with very few who do not look for the nomination of Blaine. That is the pointing of the stars.

The Democratic politicians are putting an interrogation point after Cleveland's name. They are asking each other whether it will be safe to nominate him in the face of that very remarkable utterance of free trade commonplace which mashes against him the broad wings of this country. Some of his best friends are frightened. Some who are not his friends are using his message on him as a knife. There is an indignant feeling of the Democratic press to determine whether it will cost more to carry him than to throw him overboard. The Democratic party's poverty of resource will force it to carry Mr. Cleveland. If not, who is the other man? It would be a sad thing for the Democracy if Mr. Cleveland were to swallow an oyster shell.

It is a painful admission, but I have just made my first visit to "Richmond on Jeems." I ran down from Washington slowly but comfortably in about four hours and a half. Some friends of mine who started from the same base of operations about a quarter of a century ago were a good deal longer getting there. The country between Washington and Richmond is for the most part so poor that it would hardly raise a hope. A crowd passing over it would have to travel in a buffet car to be comfortable. Except where there is nothing but rocks, there is no part of West Virginia to equal this in poverty of soil. I asked a Virginian on the train how this soil supported a population. "It doesn't," he said.

A West Virginian friend, who also was making his first visit to Richmond, was eager to get there that he might pick from the over-laden trees yams, oranges and bananas, and revel in other delights of the Sunny South. Richmond was frozen up as tight as a drum. Every crack of a tree was clad in ice. The streets and the pavements were literally like poor bodies. I stopped at the hotel which has the widest reputation and, from all I have heard, should have fared a little worse if I had stopped at any other. If a man wanted to use the super bowl he had to get the person next to him to help watch it, lest in some unguarded moment it should be whisked away to the farther end of the room. An Englishman, who sat at my side, said it was a "d-d cheap way to run a first class hotel." Englishmen weaken language by trying to make it vigorous.

It was my intention to take a ride on Richmond's electrical railway. The first man I asked about it said it was not running that day. Then I asked whether it was successful. "Some times it is, that is, when it runs it goes along very well some times, and it is a very good thing to have it for a few days. But they say it will be all right after awhile." A colored brother suspected that Satan "foiled wild wire" and got "em tangled up." At all events the thing doesn't work.

Judge J. H. Ferguson, of Kanawha, happened in Richmond at the same time. He said there was but one man, Gen. Wickham, now in the Legislature, who was there when he was a member of the House forty years ago. In those days there was no Chesapeake &amp; Ohio, and when young Ferguson went from home on his way to the State Capital he went by water to Pittsburgh and to Brownsville, thence to Staunton, and then by rail to Washington and no "on to Rich-

mond." Now the run is easily and comfortably made in a night. How the world does move!

For the first time in a long while I made the trip home from Washington by daylight—a pleasant run of twelve hours through valleys and over mountains wrapped in snow. The Baltimore &amp; Ohio has done a good deal in the way of "Picture Palace B. &amp; O.," but its artists have yet to catch glimpses of the mountain scenery peeping out from its high-collared winter overcoat of virgin white. A more beautiful winter scene than Deer Park blanketed in snow would be hard to find. It is well worth a day's journey to see. C. S. H.

GENERAL GOFF.

His Room for the Vice-Presidency—A Good Man for the First Place.

To the Editor of the Intelligence.

Sir:—As General Goff is being considerably boomed just now as the Republican candidate for the Vice-Presidency, I beg leave to offer a few suggestions in relation to the matter. So far as I have been able to learn, the sentiment of the Republicans of West Virginia is unanimous for Goff. This is what might be expected, he being a citizen of our State and the possessor of talents and statesmanship which make him the peer of any man in the United States. Then, again, he is a Southerner, "to the manner born." The Southern Republicans have for twenty-five years been fighting for our glorious principles without representation on the National ticket, and no Southern Republican is so eminently fit to represent them as Goff.

I find that there is a prevalent opinion in some quarters that Goff's candidacy for the Vice-Presidency depends upon Mr. Blaine being the nominee for the Presidency. This is a mistaken idea, for notwithstanding the fact that candidates for the presidential tickets have heretofore represented sections of the United States at a considerable distance from each other, yet, as Gen. Goff, who is as national as any man in the United States, is a Southerner, he is a Southerner, "to the manner born." The Southern Republicans have for twenty-five years been fighting for our glorious principles without representation on the National ticket, and no Southern Republican is so eminently fit to represent them as Goff.

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